

[December 9, 1982]

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 511

## ADVANCE FACT SHEET

- Exhibition: Mauritshuis: Dutch Painting of the Golden Age from the Royal Picture Gallery, The Hague
- Dates: April 23, 1982 - September 6, 1982
- Description: Forty outstanding examples of 17th-century Dutch painting from the Mauritshuis, the Royal Picture Gallery of The Netherlands, will begin a national tour which coincides with the bicentennial anniversary of Dutch-American diplomatic relations. Johannes Vermeer's Head of a Young Girl, Carl Fabritius' Goldfinch, Frans Hals' Laughing Boy and three masterworks by Rembrandt will be on view, as will paintings by Jan Steen, Jan van Goyen, Jacob van Ruisdael, Gerard ter Borch and other masters from this unsurpassed period of Dutch art.
- Itinerary: After opening at the National Gallery, the exhibition will travel to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (October 6, 1982 - January 30, 1983); the Art Institute of Chicago (February 26, 1983 - May 29, 1983); and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (June 30, 1983 - September 11, 1983).
- Arthur K. Wheelock, Jr., Curator, Dutch Painting, and Dodge Thompson, Executive Curator, National Gallery of Art, worked on organizing the exhibition for the American tour.
- Funding: This exhibition has been made possible at the National Gallery of Art by General Telephone & Electronics Corporation.
- Catalogue: A catalogue containing color illustrations and scholarly entries by Dr. H. R. Hoetink, Director of the Mauritshuis, will accompany the exhibition. The catalogue will describe the paintings, and will provide information about the building and the founder of the Mauritshuis, Johan Maurits.
- History of the Mauritshuis: The exhibition coincides with the proposed restoration of the Mauritshuis. Built between 1633 and 1644 by Pieter Post to the plans of Jacob van Campen, this small palace was originally designed as a home for Johan Maurits, son of Prince Willem The Silent of the House of Orange. The interior scale offers the charm and intimacy of a private home while the exterior provides an excellent example of 17th-century Dutch classical baroque architecture. The building served many uses

(more)

before it became a museum: as a seat of the Military High Court; an ambassador's temporary residence; the National Library; and a prison. In 1820 the Mauritshuis was designated as the repository for the Royal Paintings and Curiosities. When the Mauritshuis opened its doors to the public in 1822, it contained more than 100 paintings by masters such as Rembrandt, Holbein, Rubens, van Dyck, Steen, Ostade and Potter. Many of these paintings had belonged to the ruling family of the House of Orange.

History of the  
Dutch-American  
Bicentennial:

Beginning April 19, the year 1982 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and The Netherlands: the oldest continuous relationship the United States has experienced with any foreign nation.

On April 19, 1782, John Adams presented his credentials as the first United States minister to The Netherlands thus securing Dutch official recognition of the United States as an independent nation. Within six months, on October 8, 1782, in The Hague, John Adams signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce, the first agreement between the two countries.

For the first time in three decades, a reigning monarch of The Netherlands will make an official visit to the United States. The state visit by Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus from April 19 to 22 will be a highlight of the bicentennial celebration. The last state visit was by Queen Beatrix's mother, Queen Juliana, in April 1952.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or photographs, contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer) or Carolyn Engel, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 842-6353.



## 200 YEARS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES

In 1982 it will be 200 years since the Netherlands and the United States, two nations linked by common traditions of intellectual and democratic freedom, entered into diplomatic relations and concluded a Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

Diplomatic relations were established on 19 April 1782 when the States General of the Republic of the Netherlands accepted the letters of credence of John Adams so that he became the first official envoy of the United States. On 8 October 1782 the Treaty of Amity and Commerce was concluded, making the Netherlands the second country in the world to establish formal diplomatic relations with the United States (France, being the first). These relations have never been interrupted by violence or discord, so that the Netherlands can claim to have the longest record of continuous friendly relations with the US.

Down through the centuries, both nations have influenced each other politically, financially, commercially and culturally. Several waves of Dutch emigrants settled in the United States and made their mark on society in a number of states. Many prominent Americans are of Dutch origin including three former presidents: Martin van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Relations between the two countries are no empty formality, as evidenced on a number of occasions when they have come to each other's aid at crucial moments in history. From the very start of the War of Independence the American revolutionary cause found both sympathy and support from the Netherlands, for example in the salute of the Dutch island of St. Eustatius to the American warship 'Andrea Doria' in 1776 and the triumphal reception given to John Paul Jones when he arrived with his squadron in Dutch territorial waters in 1779. Between 1780 and 1790 the Netherlands loaned 35 million guilders to the US. After the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941, the Netherlands was one of the first countries to ally itself with the United States. Conversely, the American military cemetery in Margraten bears impressive witness to the United States' role in the liberation of the Netherlands in the Second World War. After the war the United States generously assisted in the reconstruction of the Dutch economy through the Marshall Plan.

The Netherlands and the United States were both founder members of the United Nations and as members of NATO are committed to the defence of one another's freedom.

There are therefore many good reasons to celebrate the establishment of relations between our countries 200 years ago, for which purpose numerous events have been planned in the fields of culture, science, trade and commerce, sports and folk arts.